

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Burbank et al.

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: 3736

Customer No.: 23422

For: **TISSUE ACQUISITION SYSTEM AND
METHOD OF USE**

Serial No.: 09/981,525

Filed: October 16, 2001

Atty. Docket No.: 9619.1031

TRANSMITTAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

1. Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified patent application are:

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement;
- ☒ International Search Report;
- ☒ Form PTO-1449; and
- ☒ Return receipt postcard.

2. Payment of Fees.

- ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayment of fees, which may be required under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, to Deposit Account No 13-201, referencing Atty. Docket No. 9619.1031. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

By: Edward J. Lynch

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that these papers are being deposited with the USPS as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 5/2/02, in San Francisco, CA.



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) **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

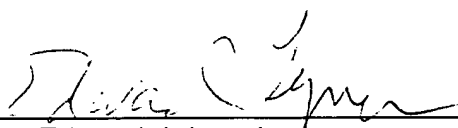
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Patent Office the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449 and request that they be considered by the Examiner. Each of the references cited on the attached were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in prior application Serial No. 09/196,125, filed November 20, 1998. A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed herewith.

This information disclosure statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1), therefore, no fee is due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and to credit any overpayment of fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-0201, referencing Atty. Docket No. 9619.1031.

Respectfully submitted,

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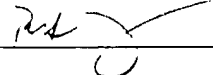
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<p align="center">IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p align="center">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98)</p> <p align="center">FORM PTO-1449</p> <p align="center">SHEET 1 of 1</p>	<p>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO:</p> <p align="center">09619.1031</p>	<p>APPLICATION NO:</p> <p align="center">09/981,525</p>
<p align="center">APPLICANT(S):</p> <p align="center">F. Burbank et al.</p>		
<p>FILING DATE:</p> <p align="center">October 16, 2001</p>		<p>GROUP:</p> <p align="center">3736</p>



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

† EX'R INITIAL	* REF. #	PATENT NUMBER	DATE (MO/YR)	NAME	U.S. CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If appropriate)
	*A55	3,910,279	10/75	OKADA ET AL.		
	*A56	4,362,160	12/82	HILTERBRANDT		
	*A57	5,133,360	07/92	SPEARS		
	*A58	5,477,862	12/95	HAGA		
	*A59	5,649,547	07/97	RITCHART ET AL.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

† EX'R INITIAL	* REF. #	PATENT NUMBER	DATE (MO/YR)	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)

OTHER DOCUMENTS

† EX'R INITIAL	* REF. #	CITATION (Author, Article Title, Journal/Book Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE	DATE CONSIDERED
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† EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. *Include copy of this form in next communication to applicant.*

* If an asterisk is placed beside the reference number, a copy is not provided because the reference was previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in a prior application that is identified in the statement and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a).

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